

North America's largest high school environmental education competition



# Part 1: Program Overview



### What is Canon Envirothon?

An environmental education program for high school students designed to:

- 1. Increase each student's knowledge of ecology, natural resource management, and current environmental issues.
- 2. Enhance each student's problem solving and critical thinking skills.

#### What is Canon Envirothon?

The program is based on two basic components:

- 1. Education and Training
  - In-class curriculum
  - Hands-on training
- 2. Knowledge and Skills Evaluation
  - Local/Regional competition
  - State/Provincial competition
  - International competition



1979 – Envirothon started in Pennsylvania

1988 – First National Envirothon

1993 – Participation by 21 teams

1999 – Participation by 46 teams

2002 – Participation by 51 teams

#### **Envirothon Mission**

To develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing and prepared to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.



# Part 2: Envirothon Education



#### **Educational Goals**

1. To promote a desire to learn more about the natural environment and equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to apply the basic principles and practices of resource management and ecology to complex environmental issues.



#### **Educational Goals**

2. To promote stewardship of natural resources and to encourage the development of the critical thinking, cooperative problem-solving, and decision-making skills required to achieve and maintain a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.



#### **Educational Goals**

3. To provide students with experience in environmentally-oriented activities, enabling them to become environmentally-aware, actionoriented citizens.



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The competition includes two components:

- 1. Training / Testing Stations
- 2. Oral Presentation



- 1. Training / Testing Stations
  - Soils / Land Use



- 1. Training / Testing Stations
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  - Aquatic Ecology





- 1. Training / Testing Stations
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  - Forestry
  - Wildlife





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- 1. Training / Testing Stations
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  - Aquatic Ecology
  - Forestry
  - Wildlife
  - Current Environmental Issue
- 2. Oral Presentation



# Part 3: Program Evaluation



How do we measure our success?

- Organizational Growth
  - Number of state/provincial programs
  - Number of participants
  - Number of volunteers
- Internal Evaluation
  - Participant surveys
  - Testimonials

#### Envirothon surveys suggest:

- Participants enjoy their experience
  - Participants active for 2+ years
  - Recommend Envirothon to their peers/colleagues
- The program effects change in students
  - Changes the way students view their planet
  - How humans impact the environment
  - Changes in daily lives to reduce negative impacts
  - More likely to inform others

I know the Envirothon makes us use our heads and think through complex issues. I hope the Envirothon keeps growing; it can never reach too many people.

> Michael Martin Student, Kansas Envirothon



I believe the Envirothon was the most enjoyable, educational, and fruitful high school competition in which I participated.

Jim Cornelius

Student, Arizona Envirothon



The Envirothon is the most rewarding educational experience I've had in nineteen years of teaching.

Greg Turner

Nova Scotia Envirothon



Our experience was that the Canon Envirothon offered a unique opportunity for individual students to bring their fundamental knowledge and reasoning ability together as a team to focus on understanding critical areas of our environment.

Dr. Lois Blondeau Arizona Envirothon

# Part 4: Challenges & Opportunities



# Challenges & Opportunities

- 1. Strengthen organization
  - Strengthen existing programs
  - Initiate new programs
  - Improve communication
- 2. Increase program visibility/awareness
  - Encourage greater participation
  - Attract additional sponsors

# Challenges & Opportunities

- 3. Obtain greater financial resources
  - Envirothon competitions
    - Program development
    - Resource materials and equipment
    - Staffing needs



## **Questions & Answers**





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